



Gulf Coast Region
Florida Odyssey of the Mind
2024-2025



FORMS GO WHERE?

- a. Coordinators Give & Get Back: Team, Worker, and Judge Registration forms and DISTRICT REQUIRED FORM (public schools only)
- b. Give to Coaches: Regional T-Shirt Order form, Important Dates, Training flyers, Scholarship Application (applicant sends to Freda)
- c. Coordinators send to the Regional Director (Freda):
 - Regional Membership Registration form,
 - Regional T-shirt Order form with money (unless paid online), and
 - DISTRICT REQUIRED FORMS (Pasco Public Schools only)

REGISTER WHAT? REGISTER HOW?

1. National Registration of membership is done at www.odysseyofthemind.com to pay by credit card. Pasco County Schools is paying national membership for 23 public schools that register with Freda Abercrombie by October 4.
2. Register all individual teams for competition at www.odysseyofthemind.com. The coordinator and coaches do this. Complete registration includes all information on the team's coaches, members, judge, and volunteer worker.
3. New coaches register for Beginning Coach training at www.gcodyssey.com.
4. Coaches sign up for spontaneous workshops at www.gcodyssey.com
5. Coaches order regional t-shirts online at www.gcodyssey.com. Coordinators include a copy of all order forms with one check per membership, not per team, and send to Freda UNLESS paid online.

IMPORTANT FOR THIS YEAR:

- Spontaneous workshop is November 2 or 9.
- All teams must have online registration done by Dec. 15 and paid by January 15.
- It's a Wonderful World! coaches must attend tournament training on Feb. 1.
- Having Home Depot/Lowe's/etc. cut wood for the team is outside assistance.
- The tournament is FEBRUARY 15 – it's in the middle of a four-day weekend for the school system. Set-up will be on Thursday, Feb. 13.
- State tournament is April 12: Passover weekend.

Dear Odyssey of the Mind Membership Coordinator,

Welcome back and thank you for all you do for the children of Gulf Coast Region. On behalf of the entire Regional Board, good luck to all teams! This may be the most important information we give to you this year, so please take the time to read all SIX pages carefully, make the appropriate copies, and distribute them to EVERYONE who needs to know this information.

PLEASE DOWNLOAD AND DISTRIBUTE THE FOLLOWING:

- A “2025 Gulf Coast Important Dates” - an overview of all registration due dates, training information, and tournament date – COPY AND GIVE TO COACHES.
- A “2025 GC Regional Membership Registration” form, also known as the “Coordinator’s Form”: As coordinator, your responsibility is to collect ALL fees and forms from ALL teams and USE THE INFORMATION TO REGISTER THE TEAMS, WORKERS, AND JUDGES ONLINE. This form serves as an overview of your TOTAL membership and as proof that ALL ADULTS associated with a team are approved volunteers. This form SHOULD be sent to the regional director by December 15, 2024. **ONLY SEND IT WHEN IT’S COMPLETE.**
- A “2025 Team Registration” form: Complete **one per team**. Use the form to complete a team registration online by **December 15**. Or, you can start the team registration and have the coach complete it. KEEP THE FORM. As soon as you enter team member information and click “next,” the information locks. You can add a member, but you can’t delete or change a member. Wait to make sure the child is attending and active on the team. If the problem is given to the coach and any kid shows up, the assumption is the problem has been discussed. That child is on the team forever! The names listed online will be compared to the team’s “Outside Assistance” form submitted at each level of competition. **ALL TEAMS MUST BE REGISTERED ONLINE BY THE DEADLINE.** You can pay for the team before all the information is entered, but a team will only be scheduled if all REQUIRED information is provided.
- A “2025 Worker Registration” form - **Each team** is required to provide one adult to work up to a three-hour shift on the day of competition or setup the **THURSDAY** evening before. Workers monitor doors, work sales, staff check-in, run errands, and otherwise help us make sure the regional tournament is successful. We will make sure a worker is **NOT** scheduled at the same time his or her team is competing. We will also schedule the worker around all other teams with which the worker is affiliated **IF** that connection is detailed in the comments section of the online registration. **ALL WORKERS MUST BE 16+. MEMBERSHIPS ARE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF TWO WORKERS WHO ARE UNDER 18 OR STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL.** Workers must be ENTERED online by December 15. KEEP THE FIRST PAGE OF THE FORM; GIVE THE SECOND TO THE VOLUNTEER.

- A “2025 Judge Registration” form - **Each team** is required to provide one judge for the regional competition. This person agrees to attend judge’s training in person (February 1) AND to judge at the regional competition (February 15). This **two-PAGE** form has several questions necessary to properly register a judge. Use the info to register the judge online by **December 15**. The judge must update the online registration by January 10. **KEEP THE FIRST PAGE OF THE FORM; GIVE THE SECOND PAGE TO THE JUDGE.**

If a large membership has difficulty securing enough judges, the coordinator may request that ONE judge be a junior or senior in high school, **but this must be approved by the regional director BEFORE registering the judge.**

Judges are committed to one area the whole day of competition and can’t leave to see their own child compete in another problem, so teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators make good prospects for judges. Judges are the heart of a quality tournament. For us to ensure a successful experience for the participants, **ALL** judges must commit to and attend the training, or teams will be penalized. **We will notify a judge by e-mail of his/her assignment.**

ALERT: Every adult WORKER, JUDGE, OR COACH representing any Pasco County Public School Odyssey of the Mind team must be an approved volunteer who has been screened according to district regulations. Coordinators must insure this requirement is met.

- “2025 Regional T-Shirt Order” Form – We have a lovely t-shirt design this year, including a special coach version. If you check the regional website periodically, you’ll see the design. The deadline for ordering a regional shirt is **January 15**. Coaches **order shirts on the regional website by team**. Use the paper form and send A COPY of all forms with one check for the membership, **UNLESS** you pay online (**MAYBE** new this year). Shirts will be available for pick up at the COACHES WHO CARE meetings the week of February 3. **SEND ONE CHECK PER MEMBERSHIP TO COVER ALL T-SHIRT ORDERS, PLEASE, UNLESS PAYING ONLINE!** Checks are made payable to Florida Odyssey of the Mind.
- “2025 Scholarship” Application - Any graduating senior who has participated in the Odyssey of the Mind program as a team member for a minimum of three years can apply for this scholarship. The deadline is January 15, 2025. The scholarship(s) will be awarded at the regional tournament awards ceremony.
- “2025 School Banners Information” – You’ll need a banner for the awards ceremony. Read the form carefully. **This is a coordinator’s responsibility.**

- “2025 Beginning Coach Training Flyer” – Please copy and give to all coaches as appropriate. Go over the directions with them and ask them to attend the trainings if possible and applicable. We are making a concentrated effort to improve our teams by making sure our newest coaches are teaching problem solving skills and focusing on creativity. COACHES SHOULD REGISTER ONLINE AT THE REGIONAL WEBSITE.
- “2025 Spontaneous Workshop Flyer” – They’re back!!!! **All** coaches can register to attend ONE of the two scheduled workshops on November 2 or 9. The sign-up link will be at www.gcodyssey.com. Remind coaches to honor the commitment. If they need to cancel, they should email me.
- “2025 DISTRICT REQUIRED FORM” – Pasco County public school teams must have each Odyssey family sign the “Parent Permission and Acknowledgement” form for 2024-2025. Coaches also sign the form. Coaches can turn in the forms via email, courier, U.S. mail, in person at trainings, or texted image UNTIL JANUARY 15. If it’s not in by then, the team will be NOT be scheduled. There are other “contracts” that a coach may find helpful: one for parents and one for students. They’re available online. These are NOT required by the region and are provided only to help facilitate conversations about what we expect from team members and families.

Well, that’s it for now. If you’re feeling a bit overwhelmed, please call or email me with any questions or concerns you may have. Please note that I am using the email address, fabercro@pasco.k12.fl.us for all correspondence. Expect one-two emails each month. Also, feel free to attend the coach’s training, even if you’re an experienced coach. We will be there to offer support and assistance. I look forward to seeing you at trainings, workshops, meetings, and of course, for the Regional Tournaments at T.E. WEIGHTMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL on FEBRUARY 15, 2025. Until then, good luck!

On behalf of the entire Gulf Coast Regional Board,

Freda Abercrombie

Freda Abercrombie, Regional Director
(813) 924 – 0850 (cell) (813) 794-0200 (TEWMS, school)
E-mail: fabercro@pasco.k12.fl.us OR gulfcoastrd@floma.org

Check the website often! <http://www.gcodyssey.com>

More Very Important Stuff

- **If you want to thank a sponsor, send the information to Freda and she'll put it on the website.**
- **Each team is required to provide one worker and one judge. If you provide more than one judge or worker per team, that's very helpful for the region, BUT PLEASE DON'T register multiple judges and/or workers with the idea that the extra adults are "back up" or "just in case" the required adult doesn't show up. We train, schedule, and rely on the extras the same as the required. Therefore, ALL WORKERS AND JUDGES WHO ARE REGISTERED AND SCHEDULED ARE EXPECTED TO FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATION OR THE TEAM WILL BE PENALIZED.**
- **PLEASE keep judges informed and reminded of the training and tournament dates. Do NOT just sign up people with the intention of finding a "real" person later. It's time consuming and confusing to reorganize dozens of judges two days before training.**
- Please be sure to supply current e-mail addresses for all judges, coaches, and workers whenever possible. The website may caution against school email addresses, but they work better for our purposes. Most notifications will be issued by e-mail. If you give an e-mail address, please be sure to actually read your e-mail regularly. Thanks!
- Primary teams ("It's a Wonderful World!") have the same obligations as all other teams: one judge, one worker, paperwork, etc. One or more primary teams will represent the Gulf Coast Region at the State Tournament. The team will not compete, but will perform in both long term and spontaneous. The team will be chosen by random drawing from interested teams at the regional tournament Primary awards ceremony. **New coaches of "It's a Wonderful World!" teams who attend the REQUIRED training on Feb. 1, will be allowed to bring their teams to tournament. Those who can't attend that training, will need to make it up in order to have their teams perform at the regional tournament.**

Payment Information – Give to bookkeepers.

***Attention Pasco Schools bookkeepers: FLOMA is vendor #8655.**

It is imperative that checks be made payable to the correct organization and address.

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP is \$290 and goes to:

Creative Competitions, Inc. (CCI)

406 Ganttown Road

Sewell, NJ 08080

www.odysseyofthemind.com

(**SPECIAL NOTE FOR PASCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – the district is paying the national registration for 23 schools, IF you complete the link at www.gcodyssey.com by October 4. Send no money, just register online.)

The TEAM REGISTRATION cost is \$175.00 per team (\$150.00 for primary teams). AFTER the national registration has been processed, you'll be able to register teams and pay for teams at www.odysseyofthemind.com through paypal (\$10 convenience fee added) or by generating an invoice and sending a check made payable to "FLOMA" with the invoice to:

Florida Odyssey of the Mind (FLOMA)

c/o ANNA LONG, Association Director

5633 Donnelly Circle

Orlando, FL 32821-7659

REGIONAL T-SHIRTS AND CHECKS go to:

Florida Odyssey of the Mind

c/o Freda Abercrombie

4846 Darlington Road

Holiday, FL 34690

(Pasco teams can send the forms and money through the courier.)

How a membership raises money to pay the costs associated with participating in the Odyssey of the Mind program is up to the membership's administration. Some memberships hold fundraisers, some secure business sponsors, some charge participants a fee, and some use a combination of these methods. Regardless of how the money is secured, all registration and t-shirt money must be filtered through the membership according to its bookkeeping regulations.